

COUNTRY

East Germany

TOPIC

Military Information from Cottbus

EVALUATION

see below

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1A

25X1C

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

PREPARED 24 February 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 22 January 1953, the Sachsenhof Kaserne on Jahn Strasse and Madloner Weg, Cottbus, was occupied by about 3,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank and artillery insignia. About 90 soldiers were drilling in the street at the installation, about 30 soldiers were constructing field fortifications and about 20 soldiers practiced aiming on two T-34/85 tanks near the installation. About 60 soldiers received instruction on seven 57-mm AT guns.

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2. On 22 January, 4 x 76-mm field guns and 2 guns of about 80-mm caliber with barrels, about 1 meter longer than those of the 76-mm guns and without muzzle brake, were seen in the yard of the Alvensleben Kaserne, south of Karl Liebknecht Strasse and east of Friedrich Engels Strasse. Four 122-mm field howitzers which were repeatedly reported in this installation. About 80 troops received instruction on the guns.

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3. On 22 January, the Funker Kaserne east of Pappel Allee and north of Gulbener Strasse was occupied by about 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and, a few, black-bordered black epaulets.

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4. On 22 January, the Hermann Loens Kaserne south of Hermann Loens Strasse and west of Dresdener Strasse was occupied by about 1,200 to 1,500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with and without tank insignia. About 60 soldiers received training in firing and two T-34/85 tanks practiced driving in the barracks yard.

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5. On 22 January, the Dissenchen Kaserne on the western exit of Dissenchen, was occupied by about 600 to 800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. On 13 January, about 100 soldiers armed with rifles left the installation for the firing range east of the Dissenchen-Mehrsdorf road. Ten to 12 watchtowers were seen at the artillery range. [REDACTED]

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6. On 8 January, the Alvensleben Kaserne was occupied by about 600 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. From 12 to 17 December 1952, an undetermined number of 75-mm AT guns, 76-mm AT guns and rocket launchers was seen in the installation. On 8 January 1953, about 60 to 70 soldiers were drilling in the barracks yard and about 18 soldiers engaged in physical training. [REDACTED]

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7. On 8 January, the Funker Kaserne was occupied by about 400 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. On 8 January, about 40 soldiers received instruction on a 37-mm AA gun and three AA machine guns in the training area between the installation and the railroad line. [REDACTED]

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8. On 8 January, the Hermann Loens Kaserne was occupied by about 500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. About 60 to 90 troops and a unit of about 120 men practiced marching in the barracks yard. [REDACTED]

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9. On 8 January, the Sachsendorf Kaserne was occupied by about 1,200 to 1,500 troops. Prior to 17 December 1952, service colors seen in the installation included: red-bordered black epaulets; red-bordered black epaulets with artillery or tank insignia; and black-bordered black epaulets. Source expressed the belief that, at that time the following units were quartered in the installation: a tank unit, an armored reconnaissance unit, an AT unit, a signal unit and an engineer unit. At about 5:30 p.m. on 8 January, two 2-axle armored scout cars and an undetermined number of 3-axle armored personnel carriers were seen entering the barracks area. About 240 troops practiced marching in the barracks yard. [REDACTED]

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10. On 8 January, the Dissenchen Kaserne was occupied by about 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia. A 122-mm field howitzer, a 57-mm AT gun and a 76-mm AT gun were seen in emplacements in the training area east of the Dissenchen-Merzdorf road. Aiming practice at two T-34/85 tanks which were driving in the terrain was being performed with these guns. At the same time, about 120 soldiers were individually and at squad level drilled on light mortars and light and heavy machine guns in the training area. [REDACTED]

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11. On 18 December 1952, 18 tank trucks, which source believed belonged to the airfield, were being entrained at the Cottbus railroad station.

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12. A local resident stated that, from 4 to 13 December 1952, a large number of houses opposite the Hermann Loens Kaserne had been requisitioned; however, they had not yet been evacuated.

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The information in this report confirms previous assumptions on the distribution of the units of the 9th Mecz Div in the various barracks installations in Cottbus. The 1719th AAA Regt of the 9th Mecz Div, on the basis of this and previous reports, is believed stationed in the Funker Kaserne. The information by source of paragraph 9, according to which an engineer unit is stationed in the Sachsendorf Kaserne, is received with some reserve. The 82d Engr Bn of the 9th Mecz Div may as well be stationed in Spremberg. According to reports by two other sources, small tank units were transferred from Cottbus to Weisswasser on 21 and 26 January.

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